IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS:	Ping H. KUI *et al.*	CONFIRMATION NO.:	7836
SERIAL NO.:	10/759,443	EXAMINER:	Ryan F. Pitaro
FILING DATE:	January 15, 2004	ART UNIT:	2174
FOR:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR BRIDGE PORT ADMINISTRATION		

COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

A statement of reasons for indicating allowable subject matter was attached to the Notice of Allowance mailed October 8, 2008, for the above-identified application.

Applicants appreciate the Notice of Allowability for all claims of the present application, but note that each independent claim and each dependent claim is separately patentably distinguishable over the reference relied upon by the Examiner, as such reference does not anticipate or render obvious the respective combinations of elements in each respective independent and dependent claim.

For example, the reference relied upon by the Examiner does not disclose, teach, or suggest a method for administering bridge ports for a network, according to claim 1, which includes:

> retrieving information associated with a plurality of switches, the information including at least identifiers of bridging ports of the switches and statuses of the bridging ports;
> displaying the information for the plurality of switches through an interactive display;
> receiving through the interactive display updates to at least one propagation status of at least one of the bridging ports of at least one of the switches, wherein propagation status includes an indication of whether or not a bridge port should be polled to obtain its current status;
> changing the at least one propagation status based on the updates; and
> displaying the changed at least one propagation status through the interactive display.

Nor does the reference relied upon by the Examiner disclose, teach, or suggest a software embodied in a medium and operable with a computer for displaying information associated with network elements in an enterprise system, according to claim 12, the software operable to:

> retrieve information associated with a plurality of switches, wherein each switch of the plurality of switches includes one or more bridge ports, wherein the information associated with the plurality of switches includes at least identifiers of the bridge ports of each switch and propagation statuses of the bridge ports, and wherein propagation status includes an indication of whether or not a bridge port should be polled to obtain its current status;
>
> display the information for the plurality of switches through an interactive display;
>
> receive through the interactive display updates to at least one propagation status of at least one of the bridge ports of at least one of the switches;
>
> change the at least one propagation status based on the updates; and
>
> displaying the changed at least one propagation status through the interactive display.

Nor does the reference relied upon by the Examiner disclose, teach, or suggest a system for displaying information associated with network elements in an enterprise system, according to claim 23, which includes:

> memory operable to store information associated with a plurality of network elements in the enterprise system, the network elements including a plurality switches, wherein each switch of the plurality of switches includes one or more bridge ports, wherein the information associated with the plurality of switches includes at least identifiers of the bridge ports of each switch and propagation statuses of the bridge ports, and wherein propagation status includes an indication of whether or not a bridge port should be polled to obtain its current status; and
>
> one or more processors collectively operable to:
>
> retrieve the information associated with at least a subset of the plurality of switches;
>
> display the retrieved information through an interactive display;
>
> receive through the interactive display updates to at least one propagation status of at least one of the bridge ports of at least one of the switches;
>
> change the at least one propagation status based on the updates; and
>
> displaying the changed at least one propagation status through the interactive display.

Nor does the reference relied upon by the Examiner disclose, teach, or suggest a method for displaying information associated with switches in an enterprise system, according to claim 34, which includes:

> retrieving information associated with a plurality of switches, wherein each switch of the plurality of switches includes one or more bridge ports, wherein the information associated with the plurality of switches includes at least identifiers of the bridge ports of each switch and propagation statuses of the bridge ports, and wherein propagation status includes an indication of whether or not a bridge port should be polled to obtain its current status;
>
> displaying all the retrieved identifiers in a hierarchical tree structure through an interactive display, the interactive display comprising a first and a second window, the first window comprising a hierarchical tree structure of all managed switches, the second window comprising a tabular display of bridge port information of a managed switch selected in the hierarchical tree structure;
>
> receiving through the interactive display updates to at least one propagation status of at least one of the bridge ports of at least one of the switches;
>
> changing the at least one propagation status based on the updates; and
>
> displaying the changed at least one propagation status through the interactive display.

These comments, in response to the Examiner's reasons for indicating allowable subject matter, are timely submitted.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975 (**Ref. No. 019287-0319647**). The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Date: **January 7, 2009**

Respectfully submitted,

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